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PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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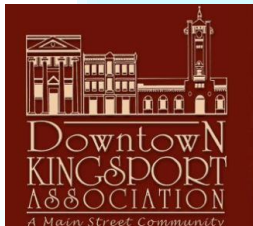
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The public is invited to a local *Celebrate Urban Birds* event that highlights public art in Kingsport.

 **Friday May 24, 2013 at 11:00 AM from DKA Office W. Main Street, Kingsport TN.**

The *Celebrate Urban Birds* Kingsport event will be a one hour guided walk covering 6 city blocks and will highlight multiple locations where birds are celebrated through art. Active urban bird watching will be led by Rack Cross, Kingsport Birding Trail Project Manager & Development Services Coordinator for the City Of Kingsport. Bonnie Macdonald, Director of the Office of Cultural Arts for the City of Kingsport will provide commentary on the art. The walk will start at the Downtown Kingsport Association building at 140 W Main Street in Kingsport. This event is free and open to the public, but there is a limited number of spaces, RSVP should be made to Chasity Carter at dkafront@DowntownKingsport.org or call (423) 246-6550.

For more information contact Rack Cross at RackCross@KingsportTN.gov or call (423) 229-9492.

This *Celebrate Urban Birds* event is brought to you by The Downtown Kingsport Association, The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts, the, The Kingsport Birding Trail, and Cornell Ornithology Lab.



Celebrate Urban Birds is a citizen science project from Cornell Ornithology Lab, focused on a better understanding of the value of green spaces for birds. This project connects people of all ages and backgrounds to birds and the natural world through the arts and fun neighborhood activities.

LOCAL ORGANIZERS:

Suzanne Barrett Justis, Artist

Chasity Carter, Marketing and Communications Manager Downtown Kingsport Association

Rack Cross, Kingsport Birding Trail Project Manager & Development Services Coordinator
City of Kingsport

Bonnie Macdonald, Director, Office of Cultural Arts City of Kingsport

Sherri Mosley, Executive Director, Downtown Kingsport Association

William Stephanos, Program Administrator, Office of Cultural Arts City of Kingsport



In conjunction with this *Celebrate Urban Birds* event, the City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts is announcing a special sponsorship opportunity. A bronze sculpture named *Birdwatchers* by Gregory Johnson has been on display downtown for the last year as part of the annual juried exhibition Sculpture Walk. The annual Sculpture Walk exhibition gets changed every year. Over the past 6 years the city has been fortunate to keep 8 works of art for the permanent public art collection. The Office of Cultural Arts and many community members have had their eye on *Birdwatchers* all year but the time for it to leave us has come. We have been given special permission by the artist to hang on to it for a few extra months in hope of raising enough money to include it in our permanent public art collection. It is now residing outside of the city planning building on Market Street. So far \$9,000 has been raised to buy this sculpture, and another \$9,000 is needed. For more information on sponsorship of this or other public works of art, contact the City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts at (423) 392-8414 or email WilliamStephanos@KingsportTN.gov



About the City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts & Engage Kingsport:

City of Kingsport Mission: The mission of the City of Kingsport is to provide economic, educational and quality of life opportunities that create a safe, vibrant and diverse Community.

The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts, part of the City of Kingsport, connects, coordinates and engages the public with a creative community. It operates a public art program, concert and theatrical events, the *Carousel Project* and a broad range of support to the area's arts organizations. They work in tandem with **Engage Kingsport**, a private 501(c)3 non-profit organization, in order to facilitate their objectives.

The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport's goals are to collaborate with a variety of arts organizations as well as non-arts organizations, with the aim of increasing opportunities and outlets for artists of all types. As Kingsport becomes a destination for artists and art enthusiasts, new markets and opportunities emerge. The City of Kingsport Office of Cultural Arts and Engage Kingsport are dedicated to cultivating cultural assets and promoting them as vehicles for economic development within our community.

Become a financial supporter of PUBLIC ART in Kingsport— supporters at all levels are needed. Tax-deductible donations should be made payable to Engage Kingsport, Renaissance Center, Suite 224, 1200 E. Center St. Kingsport, TN 37660. Engage Kingsport is a registered 501(c)3 Non-Profit organization.

Donations can be made through PayPal at www.EngageKingsport.com or by phone at (423) 392-8414

Donations of any amount welcomed.

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“Birdwatchers” By Gregory Johnson

